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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

**COTTER et al.**

Atty. Ref.: 36-1374

Serial No. (To Be Assigned)

Group:

National Phase of PCT/GB99/01159

Filed: September 22, 2000

Examiner:

For: **OPTICAL COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK**

\* \* \* \* \*

September 22, 2000

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and in order to place the above identified application in better condition for examination, please amend the claims as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Claim 3, line 1, delete "or 2",

Claim 6, line 1, delete "or 5",

Claim 7, line 1, change "any one of claims 4 to 6" to --claim 4--,

Claim 11, line 1, change "any one of claims 4 to 10" to --claim 4--,

Claim 14, line 1, delete "or 13",

Claim 15, line 1, change "any one of claims 12 to 14" to --claim 12--,

Claim 19, line 1, change "any one of the preceding claims" to --claim 1--,

Claim 22, line 1, delete "or 21",

Claim 25, line 1, delete "or 24",

Claim 29, line 1, change "any one of claims 14 to 18" to --claim 14--,

Claim 31, line 2, change "any one of claims 24 to 30" to --claim 24--,

Claim 32, line 2, change "any one of claims 1 to 22" to --claim 1--,

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